

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF LAREDO INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT PARLIAMEN-  
TARIAN JESUS GUERRA

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Laredo Independent School District Parliamentarian Jesus J. Guerra for his honorable service to his country, his state, and his home town of Laredo, Texas.

Jesus Guerra attended Laredo Junior College, Mount View College in Dallas, and the University of Texas at Arlington. He is a lifelong civil servant: he was an employee of the U.S. Postal Service, and rose to the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Postmaster for Zapata, Texas before his retirement.

He is also a military veteran; he served in the United States Air Force from 1961 through 1970, and received an honorable discharge.

Jesus Guerra has continued to enrich his community in a variety of ways: he is a member of the City of Laredo Cable commission, a softball coach, and a catechist at St. Vincent and Santo Nino churches. He received the Community Service award from the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and was one of the first Hispanics to receive this high honor.

Jesus Guerra continues to reside in Laredo with his wife, Estella, with whom he has six children. He has been a member of the Laredo ISD Board of Trustees since 2001. Jesus Guerra has led a life of exemplary service as a postal worker, a soldier, a volunteer, and an education advocate.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to congratulate him on his accomplishments, and to thank him formally for all he has done.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
TO BENEFIT THE U.S. AUTO-  
MOTIVE INDUSTRY AND PRO-  
VIDE JOBS FOR WISCONSIN'S  
MANUFACTURING SECTOR

**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will benefit the U.S. automotive industry and help provide jobs for Wisconsin's manufacturing sector. Wisconsin has seen a net loss of more than 71,000 manufacturing jobs over the last five years, which is very troubling for a state with the second highest number of manufacturing employees per capita in the nation. Although the economy has improved significantly since mid-2003, many of our lost manufacturing jobs have not been recovered. Congress must continue to work to help our manufacturers remain competitive in the global marketplace.

Johnson Controls, Inc. (JCI), a Fortune 500 company headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, employs 2,500 workers in the state

and thousands more throughout the country. As the world's largest producer of automotive interiors, JCI works to develop and produce seating systems, instrument panels, door systems, overhead systems, and automotive electronics. They are a leader in the production of electronic telecommunications systems for vehicles and have developed innovative voice recognition systems that are used by the major manufacturers in the U.S. automotive industry.

The microphones covered in this legislation are a key component of JCI's electronic telecommunications systems. However, they are not produced domestically and JCI must import them subject to a 4.9 percent tariff rate. By temporarily eliminating this tariff, this bill will reduce JCI's production costs and help them remain competitive against international competition. In addition, this bill will benefit U.S. automotive manufacturers who rely on JCI for their telecommunications systems, consumers who will pay reduced prices for these products, and hard-working Americans who are employed in the manufacturing industry.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to pass this legislation and help U.S. manufacturing.

RECOGNIZING 225TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CON-  
GREGATION IN GEORGETOWN

**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Presbyterian Congregation in Georgetown, which is celebrating 225 years of distinguished history on March 16, 2005. On the Sundays when I'm in Washington, I often attend this church and I'm always reminded of its unique heritage.

The church's history is deeply connected with the history of the Nation. It started with a small group of worshipers in 1760 who were organized into a church in 1780 under the eminent Stephen Bloomer Balch, pupil of religious leader John Witherspoon and soldier of the Revolution. It is the first Presbyterian Church in what is now modern-day Washington, DC, and remains the oldest church in the city of any denomination with an unbroken ministry. Men and women of every denomination worshiped there, including many leaders of the young republic.

The first, and for many years the only, Protestant church building in Georgetown was erected by its congregation in 1782. Additions were made in 1794 with Thomas Jefferson listed among the contributors. A rare charter, still in effect, was granted in 1806 to "the Presbyterian Congregation in George Town" by an act of Congress signed by President Jefferson. In 1810, the church's seal, with its seven stars and Bible, was given to the church by the superintendent of the United States Mint. In 1821, President Monroe laid the cornerstone for the beautiful Bridge Street building which was moved fifty years later to its present site, with President Grant laying the cornerstone at that location. This is the same

building in which the congregation now worships.

The Presbyterian Congregation in Georgetown has always been a pioneer in the religious and cultural life of the community. In 1781, Dr. Balch became headmaster of the Columbian Academy to which George Washington sent his nephews and wards. Later, a school for girls was founded. The first book published in the District of Columbia was written by Dr. Balch, and he helped to found the first public library. As an outgrowth of the church's ministry, Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches were established in Washington and Maryland.

The church's bell tolled all day when President Washington died. George Washington Parke Custis, the grandson of Martha Washington and father-in-law of Robert E. Lee, delivered an oration on the defeat of Napoleon from the church's pulpit. Memorial services for President William Henry Harrison were conducted there. During the Civil War, its building was used as a hospital for both Union and Confederate soldiers, including casualties after the Second Battle of Manassas and the Battle of Fredericksburg. In these and many ways, the church has been identified with the history of the nation it has sought to serve.

The church's ministry remains vibrant today. The congregation is thankful for the recent arrival of its new pastor, the Reverend Doctor Richard L. Sheffield. Under his dynamic leadership and with God's grace, I'm certain that the church will continue to play an important role in the Washington community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Presbyterian Congregation in Georgetown on its 225th anniversary. It is both an honor and a pleasure to salute such a long-standing institution that has played such an important role in the history of our Nation.

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING WEEK

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 9, 2005*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of our nation's great manufacturing base. My colleague Rep. GILLMOR introduced important legislation, H. Res. 16, to support National Manufacturing Week, congratulate manufacturers and their employees for their contributions growth and innovation, and recognize the challenges facing the manufacturing sector. I join him in applauding America's manufacturers.

I especially want to highlight aviation manufacturing, the manufacturing sector predominant in my district, where Wichita is known as the Air Capital of the World. Wichita is home to 4 major aircraft manufacturers, numerous suppliers and other support industries. I am very proud of all the men and women today and in years past who have brought that distinction to our great city.

According to the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, General Aviation manufacturing contributed over \$6 billion to the U.S.